

Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application:

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1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing a data structure, the data structure having rows and columns, the data structure comprising:
a type column containing a type value for each row, the type value of a row identifying a row type, each type value identifying the columns of that row;
and
a column of a row that includes a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing a type value for each sub-row, the type value of a sub-row identifying a sub-row type, each type value for a sub-row identifying the sub-columns of that sub-row.

10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein a sub-column of a sub-row of the nested data structure includes a further nested data structure.

11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the data structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

13. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type column.

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14. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein a type value identifies a schema for a type.

15. (Previously presented) A method in a computer system for creating a data structure having rows and columns, the method comprising:
identifying each type of row of the data structure; and
storing data for each row of the data structure, the data including a type column containing a type value for each row, each type value identifying the columns of that row, the stored data for a row including a nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing a type value for each sub-row, each type value for a sub-row identifying the sub-columns of that sub-row.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein a sub-column of a sub-row of the nested data structure includes a further nested data structure.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the data structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type column.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein a type value identifies a schema for a type.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 including:
providing a data store in a first format;
providing a mapping of the first format to a second format;

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 receiving a query for a data store based on the second format;
 generating a query based on the first format using the received query and the
 provided mapping; and
 executing the generated query based on the first format against the provided
 data store in the first format to generate data
 wherein the generated data is stored in the created data structure.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 including converting the
 data of the created data structure into data in the second format.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the second
 format is an XML format.

24. (Previously presented) A computer system for creating a data structure
 having rows and columns, comprising:

means for identifying each type of row of the data structure; and

means for storing data for each row of the data structure, the data including a
 type column containing a type value for each row, each type value
 identifying the columns of that row, the stored data for a row including a
 nested data structure, the nested data structure including sub-rows and
 sub-columns, one of the sub-columns being a type sub-column containing
 a type value for each sub-row, each type value identifying the sub-
 columns of that sub-row.

25. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein a sub-
 column of a sub-row of the nested data structure includes a further nested data
 structure.

26. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the data
 structure is a nested conditional relation data structure.

27. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein at least two rows of the data structure contain different type values in the type column.

28. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein at least two sub-rows of the nested data structure contain different type values in the type column.

29. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein a type value identifies a schema for a type.

30. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 including:
a data store in a first format;
a mapping of the first format to a second format;
means for receiving a query for a data store based on the second format;
means for generating a query based on the first format using the received query and the mapping; and
means for executing the generated query based on the first format against the data store in the first format to generate data
wherein the generated data is stored in the created data structure.

31. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 30 including converting the data of the created data structure into data in the second format.

32. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 30 wherein the second format is an XML format.